



“The Greatest of These is Love”

1Corinthians 13:13

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- 1Cor. 12:31 - “But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way”
- 1Cor. 13:13 - “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- This virtue will facilitate growth in favor with God and man - Luke 2:52
- This virtue will present each man perfect in Christ - Col. 1:28-29, 3:14
- This virtue forms the basis of righteousness - 1John 3:10
- Bible love is unique and wonderful above all loves of this earth

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- We must avoid doctrine without love
 - 1Cor. 13:1-3 - “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”
- We must avoid love without doctrine
 - 2Chron. 19:2 - “Jehu the son of Hanani the seer went out to meet him, and said to King Jehoshaphat, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Therefore the wrath of the LORD is upon you.”

Love Is The Greatest Duty Of Man

- Loving others is not a suggestion, but a commandment of God; this necessarily means that Bible love is based on a choice to dedicate ourselves to wellbeing of those we have chosen to love
 - 1Peter 1:22 - “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart”
 - 1Peter 2:17 - “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.”
 - 1John 3:23 - “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”

Love Is The Greatest Duty Of Man

- Love is the first law of our relationship with God and the first law of our relationship with each other; it is the royal law, and is the foundation of all God given law
 - Mark 12:28-34
 - James 2:8 - “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well”
 - Gal 5:14 - “For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love Is The Greatest Duty Of Man

- We have been taught to love one another from the beginning
 - 1John 3:11 - “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.”
 - John 15:12, 17 - “This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you... 17 These things I command you, that you love one another.”

Love Is The Greatest Duty Of Man

- Our sanctification and state of holiness requires an increasing love for others
 - 1Thes 3:12-13 - “And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.”
 - 1Thes. 4:9-10 - “But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; 10 and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more”

Love Is The Greatest Duty Of Man

- Walking as God's children requires growing in love
 - Eph. 5:1-2 - "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma."
 - Matt 5:44-45, 48 - "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust... 48 Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."

Love Is The Greatest Manifestation Of Grace

- Our nature when we served the Adversary was to live in hate
 - Titus 3:3 - “For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another.”
 - 1John 3:11-14 - “For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, 12 not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous. 13 Do not marvel, my brethren, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”

Love Is The Greatest Manifestation Of Grace

- Our nature when we serve the Lord is to be transformed by His love and grace to love others
- Saul hated Christians intensely
 - Acts 9:1 - “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord”
 - Acts 26:11 - “And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities.”
- But Paul loved them dearly
 - 2Cor 12:15 - “And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved.”

Love Is The Greatest Evidence Of Faith

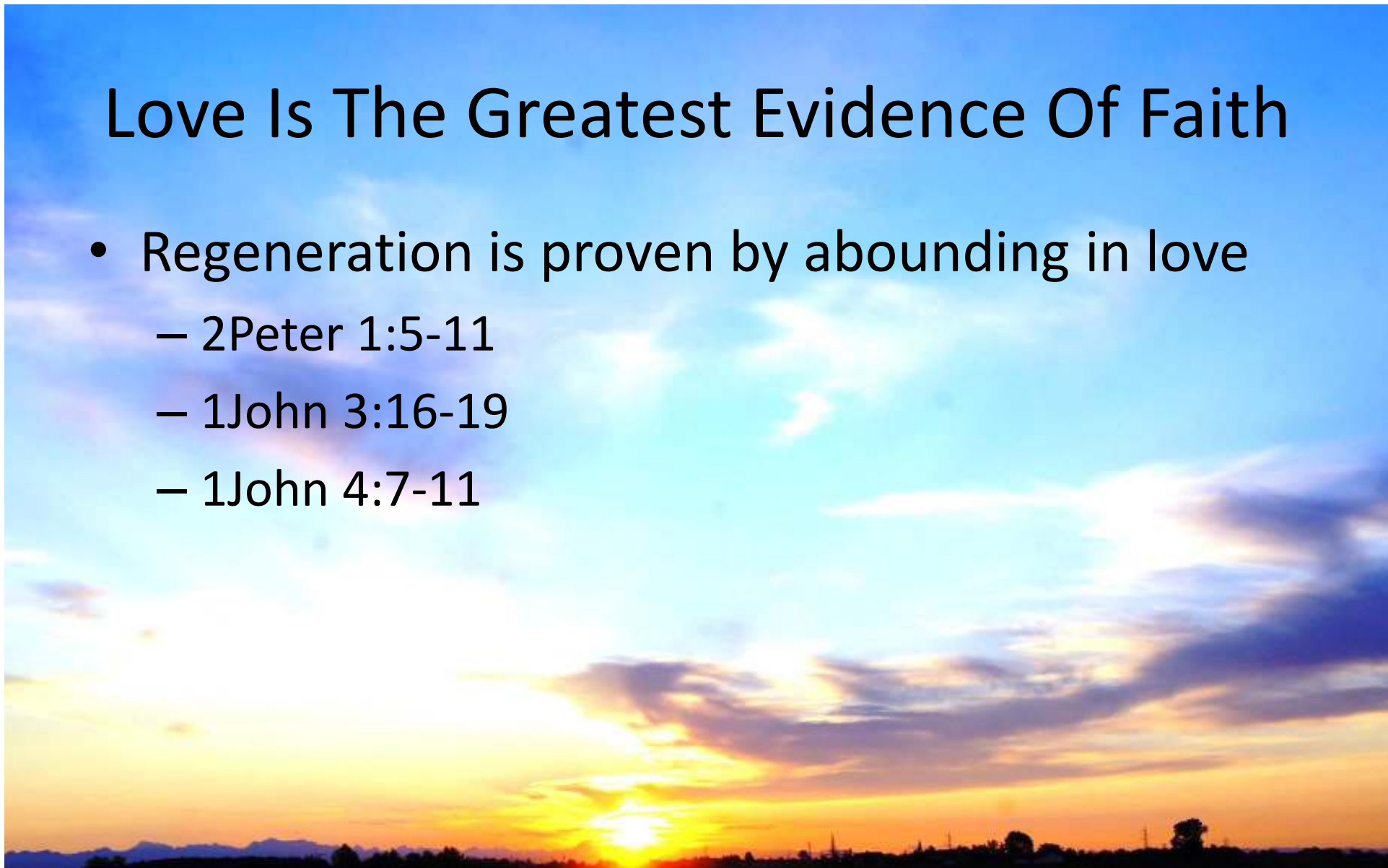
- Faith must be combined with love for it to be in evidence
 - Gal. 5:6 - “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”
 - Heb. 6:10 - “For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

Love Is The Greatest Evidence Of Faith

- 1Peter 1:21-23 - “Who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever”

Love Is The Greatest Evidence Of Faith

- Regeneration is proven by abounding in love
 - 2Peter 1:5-11
 - 1John 3:16-19
 - 1John 4:7-11



Love Is The Greatest Evidence Of Faith

- We have no evidence that we love God unless we love the children of God
 - 1John 4:20 - 5:1 - "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also... 5:1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him."

Love Is The Greatest Means Of Glorifying God

- We may accomplish more good to God's glory with love than anything else.
- Churches grow through edification and love
 - Eph. 4:15-16 - “But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-
- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

Love Is The Greatest Means Of Glorifying God

- Everything we do is to be done with love, or it is of no value
 - 1Cor. 16:14 - “Let all that you do be done with love.”
- Love can cover a multitude of sins
 - 1Peter 4:8 - “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.”

Love Is The Greatest Means Of Glorifying God

- Love moves others to rejoice as they observe our love in action
 - Phil. 1:7 - “Just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”
 - 2Cor. 9:12-13 - “For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men”

Love Is The Greatest Source Of Well Being

- We secure more blessings and peaceful lives by love than any other means.
 - Prov. 15:17 - “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.”
 - 1Peter 3:8-11 - “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; 9 not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 10 For He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. 11 Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.”

“The Greatest of These is Love”

- Love Is The Greatest Measure Of Perfection
- Love Is The Greatest Precept
- Love Is The Greatest Challenge

